

# CITY OF FIREBAUGH



FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C.  
20554

May 23, 2011

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

For years, wireless providers have focused on the highly populated areas of our state when advancing technology and providing service. This has meant cities such as Firebaugh are some of the last to benefit from technological progress.

Rural communities like Firebaugh are highly dependent on fast, reliable wireless and broadband services to communicate with other cities and state agencies. Many times, though, we must resort to older technology like traditional hard wire telephones to communicate. This has a dramatic impact on our citizens when they need critical services the city provides.

All of this may now be a thing of the past. From what I have read about the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile, rural communities across the state and the country stand to benefit a great deal from this transaction. The extended coverage and reliability expected from the joining of these two companies will provide many rural cities and towns with the most up-to-date technology we have needed for some time. Plus, with the two companies sharing similar technology, the efficiencies gained will allow this broadband technology to be quickly deployed.

The benefits of broadband technologies are significant. In today's business world a business will have difficulty even surviving without utilizing the Internet. Expand communications coverage will tremendously benefit our city and countless cities like ours. On behalf of my community and our residents, I urge you and your fellow commissioners to approve this merger as quickly as possible.

Kindest Regards,



Jose Antonio Ramirez  
City Manager, City of Firebaugh  
1133 P Street  
Firebaugh, CA 93622

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker